

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
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P R 081715Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5261

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

FOSIF ROTA

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, PBOR, MR, AG, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIA BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA

1. FOLLOWING MEETING OF NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU (BPN) UNDER
CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, MAURITANIA BORKE
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA MARCH 7.

2. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT DECISION RESULTED FROM
ALGERIAN RECOGNITION OF SO-CALLED SAHRAWI REPUBLIC. BPN
REVIEWED RECENT DOWNWARD SPIRAL IN MAURITANIA-ALGERIAN RELATIONS,
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EMPHASIZING THAT ALGERIANS HAD DECIDED "TO ARM, TO FFICER

AND TO SUPPORT MERCENARY BANDS WHICH HAD AS THEIR OBJECTIVE TO ATTACK CIVILIAN TARGETS LOCATED INSIDE MAURITANIAN FRONTIERS ESTABLISHED IN 1960". BPN SINGLED OUT ATTACKS ON INAL, BIR MOGHREIN, AND 'AIN BEN TILI. COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT "NOW ALGERIAN LEADERS ARE CREATING A 'SAHRAWI REPUBLIC' AND DESIGNATING AS MEMBERS OF THIS GOVERNMENT SOME MAURITANIAN POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS PSEUDO-GOVERNMENT WAS A DIPLOMAT AND EVEN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE MAURITANIAN EMBASSY IN ALGIERS." CONSEQUENTLY, COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED, BPN DECLARED TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA.

3. COMMENT: FORMER MAURITANIAN CHARGE IN ALGIERS REFERRED TO IN COMMUNIQUE IS BRAHIM DERWICH (75 NOUAKCHOTT 2193 AND 2217), WHO IS APPARENTLY NOW USING NAME HAKIM IBRAHIM OR HAKIM ADEL (ALGIERS 612).

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR BENKOBBI DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT JANUARY 28 AND LEFT MISSION IN CHARGE OF FIRST SECRETARY MOHAMED YAHIAOUI. BENKOBBI PRESUMABLY HAD DEPARTED ONLY TEMPORARILY ALTHOUGH WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT ALL OF HIS EFFECTS HAD BEEN SHIPPED TO ALGIERS. ATTACHE ZOUHIR SI BOUAKAZ DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT FOR DAKAR ON MARCH 6. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, HE ASSURED EMB. OFFICERS HE WOULD BE RETURNING IN FEW DAYS. ALGERIA'S MILITARY ATTACHE COMMANDANT ABDEL KADER FELLOUHI, WAS IN NOUAKCHOTT AS OF MARCH 5. AT MOROCCAN NATIONAL DAY MARCH 3, MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS WENT OUT OF WAY TO BE FRIENDLY TO SI BOUAKAZ, ONLY ALGERIAN AT RECEPTION. HANDY SIDE

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